



Five women run together in last year's Marathon Sports 5 miler.

A Mid-Summer Night's Classic

Thursday night race benefits Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Whether you're new to the road race game or a seasoned veteran, the Marathon Sports 5 miler is a gem, combining small town charm with a cool evening atmosphere. The race has a long history, getting its start in Framingham

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as a 5.2 miler, eventually moving to Wellesley, becoming an even 5-miler, then finally finding its home in Weston in 2004. Traditionally held on the second Thursday in July, this popular summer evening event is anything but small: more than 1,000 entrants are expected at this year's 32nd annual road race on July 12.

What makes this annual race so unique is one business owner's philanthropic mission to give back to the community by keeping the tradition and spirit of the road race alive. Race Director, Colin Peddie, and owner of Marathon Sports (and an elite runner himself), takes great pride in this annual event. He calls it a "do-good road race designed to give something back to our customers and the community, and give people a stress-free run."

Peddie's favorite part of the race doesn't have much to do with running. His pride comes from a 10-year relationship with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the sole recipient of all race proceeds.

The race is a scenic 5-mile course starting at Weston High School. The course is relatively flat during the first and last mile, with moderate hills in the middle.

Peddie says the field is made up of "people who take fitness pretty seriously or people who use running as their main source of exercise. Average race time is 30-35 minutes, but it's designed for fun, not speed."

And the fun doesn't end when you cross the finish line. The post-race social gathering in the field behind Weston High school offers great music, raffle prizes and food, including pizza, fruit, cookies and of course, water.

The registration fee is \$20. Number pickup is available at the Marathon Sports store in Wellesley from July 8-11 and the first 600 pre-registrants receive a free T-shirt.

For more information and to register, visit www.marathonsports.com. —Paula Vergara